

# VESTIGES



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Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

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## President's Message

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual URARA Symposium will be in Price, Utah at the Carbon County Events Center on September 23 through September 26, 2011. September 23 and September 26 will be field trip days. Speakers will be on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25. The Carbon County Events Center is a new facility that is spacious, can be darkened for presentations.

Registration for the Price symposium will begin July 10. Look for the July *Vestiges* and an email from Lois Mansfield on that date. As in the past two years, we will include symposium and field trip registration material in the July *Vestiges*, but we will send the field trip listing as an attachment in an email to all URARA current members. You will need both items to complete your symposium and field trip registration.

**Jeff Allen**  
2011 URARA President

## Welcome to Price!

By Layne Miller

This year's URARA symposium will be convened in Price, Utah; center of some of the finest examples of Fremont, Barrier Canyon and Ute rock art found anywhere in the west. If history is a passion of yours, you will find it near Price.

History began here 300 million years ago when dinosaurs were still roaming the Earth. Their existence continued unto 60 million years ago when most of their kind disappeared, but their fossilized remains can be seen in the Prehistoric Museum in Price and in situ at the Cleveland-Lloyd Dinosaur Quarry.

Several thousand years ago, the prehistoric inhabitants of Utah left messages on the cliffs in Nine Mile Canyon, Range Creek and the San Rafael Swell in the form of petroglyphs and

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pictographs. The Desert Archaic and Fremont people called the area home for a long time, and were eventually replaced by the nomadic Utes. Early river runners floated the Green and Colorado rivers, and the extremely determined uranium prospectors left their mark in the San Rafael Swell in the form of abandoned camps, dirt roads and pockmarked cliffs where they were looking to strike the mother lode.

However, the focus of the September symposium will be the petroglyphs and pictographs abundant in the nearby canyons. Places like Virgin Springs Canyon, Horseshoe Canyon, Range Creek (yes, we will have a special field trip into Range Creek), Nine Mile Canyon and Little Wild Horse Canyon have been the focus of determined rock art researchers since the 1950s and still draw investigators from around the world each field season. The rock art has been the subject of PowerPoint presentations, lectures, speculation and campfire arguments for generations, and the subject continues to generate debate even today.

If you haven't spent time in Castle Country hiking the nearby canyons, or even if the area is completely familiar to you, don't miss the latest in hyperbole and social good times.

Yes, Castle Country has plenty of history, but it is a different kind of history from the rest of the state. One deceased doctor from Price put it this way: "The people in Price are so friendly, even the Mormons speak to each other in the liquor store." That might be a slight exaggeration, but it is fair to repeat his most common explanation of the area: "Most people in Utah live along the Wasatch Front, but we in Price live along the Wasatch Behind." Yes, it does appear to most people in Carbon County that the Utah state line ends somewhere close to Provo or maybe Spanish Fork, because the Republican-controlled Utah Legislature often ignores or even punishes the Democrat-controlled county. Local residents elected a Republican to the County Commission a year ago, and he was the first in over 50 years (the last one was actually shot and killed- true story).

Homes in Carbon county looked different than those in adjacent Emery county, where the Mormons were "called" to settle by Mormon leader Brigham Young. Homes in Emery county are typically arranged like other early Mormon ranches. Their lanes are lined with poplar trees, barns for milk cows are nearby and Mormon churches are common. By contrast, Price homes have pointy roofs as did all early coal camp homes, coal miners take their lunch buckets to work each day and the main streets of Price and Helper were seen lined with more bars and brothels than churches, years ago.

Residents of the two counties remain separated and estranged to this day. One Emery county resident said they don't like Carbon county residents because "they stole the railroad." The railroad was built in 1881 and that sore is still infected in the man's opinion. One Emery county man said the reason the wind blows so often in Emery county is that "Carbon county sucks." The wind does blow here a lot. In one historical record, the Utes called the area "Blow Valley," which seems to indicate it has blown for a long time.

However, the differences are often forgotten when it comes time to celebrate. Everyone plans to attend the annual Greek festival to share delicious Greek pastries and food, and most people visit Slovenian Days in Carbonville each summer. Everyone tries to attend the wild celebrating that takes place at the local Mormon wards each summer (Okay, that part is an exaggeration). However, the area is not to be missed, especially to experience its great history and wonderful rock art.

## **URARA and Rock Art Preservation**

**By Troy Scotter**

URARA is working on several conservation and preservation projects. There is a lot going on in Nine Mile Canyon.

- We have worked with the BLM to review the location of all federal government sites and re-plot these sites on updated landownership maps to determine whether these sites are actually on BLM property or are now located on state or private property. Nina Bowen, Steve Manning, Gary Burningham, and even my dad helped with this project. Based on this updated data the BLM has selected a first batch of 200 sites to be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. We have assisted the BLM by preparing all of the cover letters for these sites. The Keeper should submit these sites for final approval soon.
- Other news in Nine Mile Canyon includes a proposal to pave the road. This proposal is significant because it would eliminate much of the dust associated with traffic. During the negotiations on the programmatic agreement URARA proposed this solution but it was rejected by the company, counties, and BLM as being too expensive. It is nice to see this alternative being actively discussed again.
- A proposal to create a new gas pipeline from the plateau to the compressor station in the canyon has upset some of our friends in the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition. Further information can be obtained at: <http://www.heartofninemile.com/> This is a difficult issue for me. I have a great deal of sensitivity around the rights of a private landowner to refuse access to their property. That a private company can take others' land to save money is disconcerting. However, from a purely conservation perspective, I would rather see a new pipeline be built along the route of an existing pipeline. I wish there were easy answers to these issues.

URARA submitted comments on the proposed Sigurd to Red Butte power line. It is unclear whether this project will affect any rock art, as the final route has not been selected. We will follow this project as it develops.

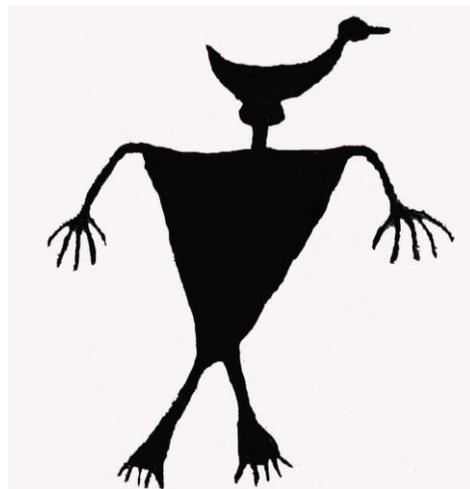
We are also working with the BLM regarding the proposed route for a new power transmission line from the wind power area west of Fillmore. This project would impact a large rock art site, which URARA helped document several years ago.

One of the great blessings of the West Tavaputs Programmatic Agreement development is that the government has seen the benefits of a process that involves interested parties. The downside is that we are now getting invitations to be involved in every project that may impact cultural resources anywhere in the State. The number of invitations is overwhelming and URARA will have to be selective in what we pursue simply because we don't have the time to do everything.

## The Story of Kiakklo & Duck

Based On Zuni Oral History As Recorded By Frank Cushing

By Kat Johnson



Have you ever wondered about all those so-called "duck-headed anthropomorph" petroglyphs, found mostly in southeast Utah? If you look closely, most do not have a duck *in place* of a head. Instead, the duck is *sitting on* a very small human head. But why? Is there a story behind that? You bet!

During the migration after the Zuni emergence, brave Kiakklo is sent to search for the Center Place where the Zuni will settle. He gets hopelessly lost and wanders far to the North where it is cold and covered with snow. Kiakklo's face turns white with frost from his breath, and he is blinded by the snow. His cheeks become grooved from the flow of tears and his voice cracks, making the sound of a duck.

Duck, who is a wise and kind being, answers Kiakklo's calls for help, and listens to his story. Duck guides Kiakklo by means of the sound made by the ceremonial shell necklace worn around Duck's neck.

After being given gifts of prayer sticks (pahos), Rainbow Worm carries Kiakklo across a great body of water, leaving the imprint of the rainbow on Kiakklo's cheek. Koyemshi (Mudhead) carries him to Kachina Village. The deities restore his sight and decide Kiakklo is the one to keep the story of the creation. They tell him the wise Duck must always accompany him.

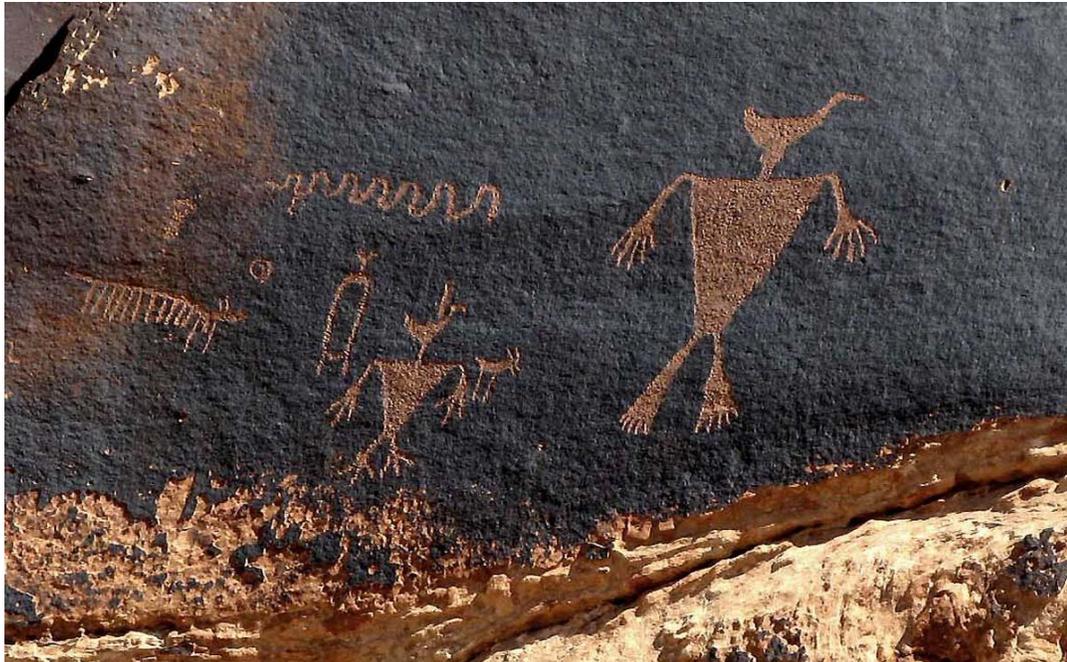
Kiakklo returns to the Zuni every four years for the initiation of young boys. He chants the Zuni history, a two or three hour performance, in each of the six kivas of Zuni.

This story is not just retold in the canyons of southeast Utah. The Zuni traveled far and wide, both when trading and on their migrations, and took this important story with them. There is a lovely example of Kiakklo and Duck in Cedar City, complete with a flute-player retelling the song/story to the people. And high on a canyon wall in extreme northwest Colorado, Kiakklo and Duck peer down at us -- a long way from their Center Place in Zuni Pueblo.

*Kiakklo and Duck, Cedar City. Photos Kat Johnson*



*Kiakklo Duck, John's Canyon*



## Moab Field Trip – May 7 and 8, 2011

By Jeff Allen

For the past three years, Richard Jenkinson has been exploring an ancient trade route from the Green River to the La Sal Mtns. For seven of us, it was a great pleasure to explore rock art sites in Hell Roaring, Seven Mile and Mill Creek Canyons. For two intense days, we explored twenty or more rock art sites along this trade route. Photos, Jeff Allen.

*Richard and some of what we saw*



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## Field Trip Leaders for Symposium

By Jeff Allen

No rock art organization offers more opportunity to its members for annual meeting field trips than URARA. Both Friday, September 23 and Monday, September 26 will be devoted to trips in the San Rafael Swell and Nine Mile Canyon. Last year, we offered 22 field trips at the Blanding symposium, and almost all of them were full. We need your support to offer field trips at the Price symposium. If you would like to volunteer, we can provide maps and support. Contact Jeff Allen at [allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com](mailto:allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com). In addition, thanks to those who have already volunteered!

## URARA – Call for Presentations

(Jeff Allen, Troy Scotter, symposium program committee co-chairs)

31st Annual Symposium, Price, Utah – September 23-26, 2011

The symposium program committee announces a call for presentations and papers for the Utah Rock Art Research Association's 31st Annual symposium, September 23-26, 2011.

Papers will be delivered on Saturday, September 24 and Sunday, September 25. We are particularly interested in papers relating to Nine Mile Canyon, Range Creek, Barrier Canyon Style and Fremont rock art. However, any presentation on rock art of the Southwest and its native cultures will be considered.

Abstracts should be kept at about 150 words. The deadline for abstracts is June 21, 2011, and we ask everyone to honor this date so that we can develop our program for printing, publicity, etc. Proposals arriving after the deadline, without prior approval of the symposium committee, cannot be considered.

Presentations, with the exception of keynote speakers, will be a maximum of 30 minutes. Reports will be 15 minutes. The committee is interested in a broad range of presentations, including those, which further the study and understanding of rock art, bring historical understanding to

rock art studies, heighten the experience of visiting rock art both culturally and aesthetically, and rock art preservation issues and current threats.

Presenters must use Power Point software that will run on a PC laptop (or bring their own laptop). The committee will review the abstracts for suitability, balance of symposium points of view, and to ensure that the number of papers do not exceed the time available for presentations. Symposium presenters will have their registration fee waived, receive a modest stipend to offset travel expenses, and be a guest of URARA at the banquet.

Please send abstracts and inquiries to Jeff Allen, at [allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com](mailto:allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com) and Troy Scotter at [troyscotter@comcast.net](mailto:troyscotter@comcast.net). Alternatively, mail to Jeff Allen at 1305 E. Riverside Dr. #13, St. George, UT 84790 (phone 435-986-0977).

## Grand Gulch Backpack – May 3-7

By Ben Everitt

Five URARA members trekked Grand Gulch downstream from the Government Trail to Collins Spring. Compared to last October's trip, it was pretty dull. We snuck in between storms and had five cloudless sunny days. Not quite too cold at night, and almost too hot in the daytime, we couldn't have hoped for better weather. A few early mosquitoes; no gnats. Water was still available at mapped springs and at a few pools in the streambed. Last fall's flood scoured the canyon, left many deep holes, and cleaned out the water pockets under the bedrock pour offs.

The cottonwoods are taller than I had remembered. They obscure the canyon walls in places, making it hard to find the rock art. Near Collins, the decorated figures, duck-headed figures, and ring-necked ducks are still there, but more faded than I remembered. Maybe it's my memory that is fading! At most ruins the pottery shards have disappeared. The "music panel" has been scrubbed, and is nearly illegible. Photos, Ben Everitt.





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